

Mayor's Message

February 2011

It is always an honor to present a State of the City address to the City Council, residents and our staff. As that opportunity came on January 18th and I considered all that was accomplished during 2010, it became very apparent that the reason for much of our success is due to the efforts of the wonderful workforce in our City. I would like to share just a few of my remarks with you and some of their extraordinary accomplishments.

The last few years have brought economic challenges to our City. Our sales tax revenue has dropped by 3 million dollars since 2007 and has yet to begin a serious upswing. Our employees have stayed firm to providing the best possible service while receiving no additional pay increases for 2 years. I have appreciated their great attitudes reflected in their efforts to make life better for all of us who call Murray home.

On June 6, 2010, snow melt came down quickly to create flooding along Big and Little Cottonwood Creeks. Our Parks Department, Public Services, Police and Fire Departments all responded to this emergency situation that especially impacted areas along the Little Cottonwood Creek. Their efforts continued for several days as they kept residents from danger, protected private property and undertook a huge clean-up effort.

The heavy snow storms we had in November resulted in a huge number of broken tree branches. Employees from several departments spent a few weeks collecting and chipping the limbs for mulch.

We are in the process of completing a technology master plan. Through the efforts of many of our employees, we are working to provide more services more ways. For example, if you would like to receive only electronic utility bills, we can do that. Employees have also been replacing your water and power meters with a radio-read variety that makes gathering usage information less intrusive. These efforts help make our employees more productive, as well as cutting costs for services.

I am very optimistic about the future of our City. While we are struggling to make the dollars stretch, just as you are, we are seeing new opportunities around the corner. Keep an eye on the State Street corridor as new projects emerge through the next few months. Your support of Murray businesses will help them have the ability to continue to provide a wide variety of products and services for your use.

As a post script, if you are looking for an evening of fabulous entertainment, may I suggest an organization called *Excellence in the Community*? They represent a variety of talented young musicians, as well as older artists of all genres. Many have been nationally recognized for their performances. You can catch some of their upcoming concerts at the Murray Theater. Their music will provide a lift to all ages.